




United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

December 17, 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.


Edson Beall
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Phone: 202-354-2255
E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov
Web: www.nps.gov/history/nr

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1037



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Sixth Avenue Community Church

other names/site number Sixth Avenue United Church; Sixth Avenue United Church of Christ/ 5DV.10975

2. Location

street & number 3250 East Sixth Avenue not for publication

city or town Denver vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Denver code 031 zip code 80206

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Jo W. T. Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 10/1/10
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Joe Edson H. Beall 12-17-10
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/ Religious Facility

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/ Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt

other: Terra Cotta

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

General Description of the Property

Located in the heart of a primarily residential Denver neighborhood, the Sixth Avenue Community Church sits on the southwest corner of 6th Avenue and Adams Street. It faces 6th Avenue on the north, Adams Street on the east, and occupies approximately one-half acre in the Harman Subdivision of the Cherry Creek North neighborhood. A concrete alley borders the west side while a small fenced yard enclosing a small playground borders most of the south side toward the east. A small dirt parking area occupies the remaining south side toward the west. A large grass covered courtyard framed by well-established deciduous trees exists on the northeastern portion, or front, of the property. Sidewalks enter from both 6th Avenue and Adams Streets and meet at the main entrance stairs of the building.

The brick church consists of an east-west gabled section that intersects at its western-most end with a north-south gabled section creating an ell on the northeast façade. A two-story hipped roof, square bell tower sits prominently on the north facing façade of the east-west section where it joins the north-south ell and houses the main entrance doors. The east-west section of the building has two-stories with a basement and primarily houses the sanctuary, while the north-south section is a single story with a basement and houses the gymnasium, offices, and classrooms. A parged concrete foundation supports the building and buff colored brick laid in a running bond, with no visible headers, make up the exterior walls. Wide overhanging eaves with decoratively cut-exposed rafters extend from the side-gabled roofs. Curvilinear parapets accent the northern most section of the north-south ell and the east wall of the east-west ell. Brown asphalt shingles sheathe the roof. The building has two single stack chimneys.

Northeast Facade

The northeast façade encompasses the north facing side of the east-west side gabled ell and the east facing side of the north-south gabled ell.

North facing side

Four distinct bays make up the north facing side of the east-west ell, the eastern-most three of which contain three round arched rowlock window surrounds extending from the ground to the top of the wall. The lower level windows are multi-paned double hung windows while stained glass rounded arched windows appear in the upper level. A wide terra cotta panel separates the lower and upper windows. The prominent two-story square tower comprises the fourth bay and provides the meeting point of the two ells. Flush with the north wall, the tower extends above the roof to approximately the same height as the ridgeline. A concrete landing, rising from four concrete steps, provides the main entrance at the first level of the tower. Paired glass panel and wood doors topped by a single pane transom allows the main access to the church. A multi-pane rectangular light with black mullions hangs to the left of the transom. Ghost markings indicate a matching light once existed on the right side. Engaged terra cotta square columns flank the entrance while a terra cotta entablature tops the transom. Matched pommels sit atop the entablature directly above the columns. Between the pommels, a decorative terra cotta window surround encircles a round arched stained glass window. Flat terra cotta pieces extend from the window with raised terra cotta outlining both sides. The terra cotta outlines wind upward ending with small scrolls, which flank a decorative terra cotta egg shape. The raised terra cotta continues down the sides angling outward ending in large scrolls next to the pommels. Centrally positioned on each of the four sides of the top of the tower, two long rectangular openings flank a

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larger rounded arch opening which reveals the church bell. The round arched opening above the entrance features a wrought iron balcony rail. The bell originally belonged to an earlier church located on 4th Avenue in Denver.

East facing side

Three bays of windows originally occupied the south portion of the north-south ell, east facing side. The windows are 12 over 12 single hung in a 2 by 3 configuration with a 6-light fixed transom window in a 2 by 3 configuration. However, during a 1950s renovation, the lower sash of the middle bay window opening was converted to a second entrance for the gymnasium. A set of metal doors with narrow vertical light in the upper portion now exist instead of the lower sash. The remaining two bays of windows contain rowlock brick sills. A front gabled section appears at the north end of the east facing side. The gabled ends contain thick walls capped with a curvilinear shaped parapet. A centrally positioned single 6 over 6 single-hung window exists in the wall with a multi-paned rose window centered below the parapet peak. Vines grow over most of the northern portion of the east facing side.

North side

The north side is the front gabled section of the north-south ell with the gable ends containing curvilinear shaped parapets. Centered in the north wall is a 6 over 6 double hung window.

West side (rear)

The west side or rear of the building contains three different roofed sections. A wall containing a curvilinear shaped parapet appears on the northern-most end of the west side and has a front gabled roof behind the parapet. A single 6 over 1 double-hung window pierces the center of the wall.

The middle section, which is the back of the north-south ell, contains five bays. A single, plain wood entrance door with a small light above it exists in the southern-most bay. Three concrete steps, flanked by angled hollow steel rails, lead to a small concrete landing. This door provides another rear entrance. The remaining four bays to the south contain 6 over 6 double hung window with 3 over 3 transoms directly above, which nearly match those windows on the east facing side of the north-south ell. However, two of the transom windows on this side of the building are stained and leaded glass windows with panes of blue, green, and purple glazing.

The southern-most end of the west side portrays a hipped roof two-story section of the building, which is the west side of the east-west ell. A centered brick chimney, which extends approximately 10' beyond the roofline partially protrudes from the west wall. On the north side of the chimney on the first story floor, a single wood panel wood door, with the upper four panels glazed, provides a secondary entrance to the two-story section. Two 6 over 6 double-hung windows flank the door. One of these windows contains a sheet metal ventilator panel on the upper sash, which was modification at an unknown date. Seven concrete steps surrounded on one side by a metal railing lead to a concrete landing. To the south of the chimney, a pair of 6 over 6 double hung windows pierce the wall. Fenestration on the second story mirrors that on the first, with the exception of a door.

South side

The south side contains a large brick chimney fully protruding from the wall and extends beyond the roofline to a height above the ridgeline. Its location is toward the western third of the south wall. Four 8 over 1 single hung windows appear on the first story and five matching windows appear in the second story. Below the western-most window of the second story window, another entrance appears. This door is a three laying panel wood door with an upper glazed panel. Nine concrete steps lead to a concrete landing to the entrance. Hollow metal railing exists on around the stairs and landing with a recent wooden picket railing on the outside of the steps and landing. A concrete pier supports the outer most portion of the landing under which a flight of concrete stairs lead to a solid wood basement access door. East of the bank of single hung windows on the second floor is a rose window, with a rowlock surround, allowing natural light into the sanctuary.

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A 1 ½ story shed roof projection extends from the side gabled roof on east end of the south side. This houses the choir loft. On the west side of the projection a round arched stained glass window with three round arched rowlocks appear. To the east of the projection, a second rose window on the second floor allows additional light into the sanctuary; it is identical to the rose window on the west side of the projection.

East side

Centered on the east side of the building is a large round arched stained window with three rowlock surrounds and a rowlock sill. Flanking the center window are two slightly smaller windows mirroring the larger one. Each of the three windows features various panels of multi-paned stained and leaded glass. The windows primarily contain shades of blue, green, and purple glass. Within each window opening, there is an operable panel, which is typically a pivoting ventilator. Two buttresses with an angled rowlock cap frame the windows on either side. These features all appear below a curvilinear shaped parapet with piers on both ends and above the buttresses. Centered below the parapet peak is a small round arched vent window. The roof behind the parapet is side gabled.

Set back approximately 6' from the south corner of the east side is the east side of the shed roof projection containing the choir loft. Mirroring the fenestration on the west side of the choir loft projection, a round arched stained and lead glass window with rowlock surround appears in the center.

Interior

The main entrance to the building accesses a central hall. The central hall provides access to the narthex on the left and continuing further to the left is the sanctuary. Traveling right from the central hall provides access to the gymnasium, office, and classrooms. The narthex serves as a cry room. In the 1960s the church made some modifications to the room, which included new finishes. Both the sanctuary and the narthex boast the original fir tongue and groove floors along with plaster walls and plaster ceiling. The nave consists of a large room with two sections of pews, a wide carpeted center aisle, and narrower side aisles. A tall gambrel arched ceiling blankets the nave and sanctuary. Carpet covers the area leading to the slightly raised sanctuary that includes the altar, pulpits, and choir area. The console for a pipe organ and a piano occupy the eastern most area in front of the sanctuary. A large rounded arch extends from above the choir area. On the north end of the nave is a second story balcony with the original theater style wooden seating and original wood flooring. The balcony railing dates to the 1960s.

To the west of the sanctuary, the two-story portion of the building consists of offices and classrooms. Above the offices and classrooms, a dance studio, office, meeting area along with access to the sanctuary's balcony exist on the second floor. The basement contains the boiler room, toilet room, and caretaker's residence. The boiler room contains an exterior door. Throughout the building, original finishes remain on the main stairs, doors, door and window trim, and wood tongue and groove flooring. The doors throughout are typically two panel wood doors with original hardware. All of the windows are original.

A secondary entrance, on the east facing side of the north-south ell grants direct access to the gymnasium. The church divided the gymnasium into two separate spaces in 1954. A large kitchen is also located on the first floor.

Alterations

Exterior alterations occurred in 1954 principally for structural and safety concerns. These included the addition of the exterior doors to the gymnasium on the east-facing wall of the north-south ell. As well, the contractor (his name is only listed as RWP on the plans) divided the gymnasium and created a meeting room in the south one-third of what was originally the gymnasium. In the early 1960s, various interior updates occurred largely for cosmetic and updating purposes. Denver architect John D. Anderson designed the

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remodeling of the chancel and the new balcony railing. From his plans dated September 24, 1962, it appears that originally an arch topped the grid panel covering the organ pipes at the chancel. The redesign extended the arch outward by approximately twelve feet and on either side of the grid panel by approximately five feet, which slightly curved upward on either end. This created a canopy over the chancel. The remodel included a vertical reeded oak board on the front of the canopy, on a new choir screen, pulpit, and organ console. Anderson continued the pattern of the vertical reeded oak board to the front of the balcony located in the back of the church. The renovation also raised the chancel by approximately six inches.

With very few alterations, the building retains a high degree of integrity with regard to the materials, workmanship, design, location, setting, feeling, and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1925 the year construction of the church was completed.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

As a religious property that derives its primary significance from its distinctive architecture, crafted by master Colorado architect Bowman, Criteria Consideration A applies.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1925

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bowman, William Norman

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Statement of Significance Summary

The 1925 Sixth Avenue Community Church meets the requirements for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of **Architecture** as an excellent example of Mission style architecture as applied to an ecclesiastical building. The prominent hipped roof square tower with iron balconies, curvilinear shaped parapets, and rounded arched windows are the most character defining features of the style found on the church. Other features of the style include a gabled roof, terra cotta decorative elements, and overhanging eaves with decoratively cut exposed rafters. The church is the work of distinguished Colorado architect William Norman Bowman whose work includes over 35 known buildings in the state.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The 1893 World's Colombian Exposition in Chicago debuted the Mission style architecture with the "California Building" serving as an example. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, the trend spread to areas east of California. Typical elements of the style include round arched windows and entries, gables with heavy shaped and curved parapets, decorative ironwork, and minimal ornamentation. The Sixth Avenue Community Church building displays these features along with a hipped roof square tower, gabled roof, and terra cotta accents. In California where this architectural style thrived in the 1920s, stucco was the primary expression for the exterior walls; however, the environment and materials most readily available in Colorado made brick more preferable for the main construction. In mass and general informal appearance, the church integrates easily with the residences of the surrounding community, which are almost exclusively one or two story brick homes. Sixth Avenue Community Church, nestled fittingly in its neighborhood community, therefore strongly represents a style that is true to the Mission architectural movement and its local environment. With very few exterior alterations, the building retains a high degree of integrity with regard to the materials, workmanship, design, location, setting, feeling, and association.

Historic Context:

William Norman Bowman, architect

William Bowman (1868-1944) was born in New York and held a variety of positions prior to moving to Denver, including a carpenter's apprentice and apprentice to several building and architecture firms. In 1910, Bowman moved to Denver and built a large home in the Barnum neighborhood of Denver. In the same year, he opened an architectural office in Denver. Bowman remained in Denver until his death in 1944. He served as president of the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Architects from 1917-19. Beginning in 1927, Bowman served a four-year term on the Colorado State Board of Architectural Examiners. He was also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Lodge, El Jebel Shrine, Knights Templar, and the Motor Club of Colorado. Through the course of his career, Bowman designed many prominent buildings from hotels to courthouses in Denver and throughout Colorado. Bowman participated in the design of the Denver City and County Building as part of the Allied Architects Association. Bowman's work spanned numerous architectural styles popular in the early 1900s, including Beaux-Arts; Classical Revival; Neoclassical; Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival; Georgian Revival, and others. The list below is a partial list of his credited buildings:

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Credited Buildings (partial list)

| Building Name | Location | Site No. | Date* | Status |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| William Norman Bowman House; Yamecila | 325 King St. Denver | 5DV3364 | 1910 | National Register |
| Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church | 1980 Dahila St. Denver | 5DV9034 | 1910 | Church; subsequent additions; National Register |
| I.O.O.F. Building. | 488 Main St Walden | 5JA870 | 1912 | Commercial |
| Jackson County Courthouse | 396 Lafeaver St. Walden | 5JA888 | 1913 | Courthouse; State Register |
| Seventh Avenue Church | 668-678 King St. Denver | 5DV.8139 | 1913 | Denver Landmark |
| Weld County Courthouse | 9th Ave. and 9th St. Greeley | 5WL567 | 1917 | Courthouse; National Register |
| Moffat County Courthouse | 211 W. Victory Wy., Craig | 5MF1273 | 1917 | Courthouse |
| Colfax School | 1526 Tennyson Denver | | 1920 | Demolished |
| State Office Building | 201 E. Colfax Ave. Denver | 5DV5991 | 1921 | State offices; National Register district |
| Byers Junior High School | 150 S. Pearl St. Denver | 5DV2099 | 1921 | School; Denver Landmark |
| Fairplay Hotel | 500 Main St. Fairplay | 5PA57 | 1922 | Hotel; National Register |
| Colfax School addition | 1526 Tennyson Denver | | 1923 | Demolished |
| Denver Public Schools Administration Building | 414 14th Street Denver | 5DV1723 | 1923 | Offices; Denver Landmark |
| Montrose County Courthouse | 320 1st St. Montrose | 5MN1813 | 1923 | Courthouse; National Register |
| Belmont Apartments | 1050 Sherman St. Denver | | 1923 | Apartments; Denver Landmark district |
| Buckingham Apartments | 1080 Sherman St. Denver | | 1923 | Apartments; Denver Landmark District |

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| Norman Apartments | 99 S. Downing St. Denver | 5DV1707 | 1924 | Apartments; National Register |
| Fort Collins High School | 1400 S. Remington St., Fort Collins | 5LR3336 | 1924 | National Register District |
| Park Hill Methodist Church | 5209 Montview Blvd., Denver | 5DV9152 | 1924 | State Register |
| Richardson Hall Adams State College | Alamosa | 5AL310 | 1924 | College |
| Colorado Building | 409 N. Main St. Pueblo | 5PE559 | 1925 | National Register |
| Cole Junior High School | 3240 Humboldt St. Denver | 5DV2088 | 1925 | School |
| Colburn Hotel | 980 Grant Street Denver | 5DV3916 | 1925 | Hotel and apartments |
| Chapel at St. Francis Sanatorium (part of former Bowman House) | 325 King St., Denver | 5DV3364 | 1927 | National Register |
| Denver Theater Building | 1527-49 Glenarm Pl., Denver | 5DV503 | 1927 | Demolished |
| Greeley Masonic Temple | 829 10 th Ave. Greeley | 5WL315 | 1927 | Masonic temple; National Register |
| Gunter Hall, University of Northern Colorado | Greeley | | 1928 | Gymnasium |
| President's House University of Northern Colorado | Greeley | | 1928 | President's House; State Register historic district |
| Cosmopolitan Hotel | 18 th and Broadway Denver | | 1929 | Demolished |
| Telephone Building | 931 14 th St. Denver | 5DV522 | 1929 | Telephone Co. offices; National Register |
| President's House/El Patio Apartments Adams State College | Alamosa | 5AL299 | 1929 | Apartments |
| Casa Del Sol Adams State College | Alamosa | 5AL532 | 1929 | |

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|---|---------------------------------------|--------|------|--------------------------|
| El Jebel Shrine and Clubhouse (with T. Robert Wieger) | 4625 W. 50th Ave. Denver | | 1929 | El Jebel facility |
| Rex Gymnasium Adams State College | Alamosa | 5AL531 | 1939 | Gymnasium |
| Continental Oil Building | Denver | | | Demolished |
| Gates Rubber Company plant buildings | Broadway and Tennessee Ave. Denver | 5DV48 | | Closed for redevelopment |

*Completion date is stated if known. Plan, building permit, or assessor date is shown if completion date is unknown.

William Norman Bowman submitted *Specifications for the Church to be built at Sixth Avenue and Adams Street* March 21, 1924. Shortly thereafter in 1924, construction of Sixth Avenue Community Church began and was completed in 1925. The gymnasium portion of the building was completed first; church services and community functions were held there while the sanctuary was being finished, concluding with the final installation of the 10 stained glass windows. The congregation of the church has met continuously in the building since its dedication in 1925.

History of Harman

In the late 1860s, Edwin Harman and his wife Lou traveled to Denver from Mississippi, eventually joining the old Cherokee Trail route in southern Colorado, which merged with the Smoky Hill Trail (south branch) that paralleled Cherry Creek as it approached Denver. The Harmans purchased a quarter section of land north of Cherry Creek in 1869. By 1882 they owned 320 acres and platted it as Harmans' Subdivision of Arapahoe County (a portion of the very large Arapahoe County eventually became Denver County). The clean air southeast of Denver attracted residents and on November 17, 1886, the Harmans incorporated the subdivision.

University Boulevard bordered the town of Harman on the west, Colorado Boulevard on the east, Sixth Avenue on the north, and Second Avenue on the south encompassing one-half section of land. The Harmans incorporated the town as a means to provide public facilities such as graded streets, street lamps, irrigation pipes, and a town hall. The town of Harman was a combination of a residential and agricultural community and boasted approximately 200 residents at the time of incorporation. In 1895, when Denver annexed the small town, the population had grown to over 500 Harman residents. This growth was due, in part, to the construction of a trolley line between Harman and Denver. Public facilities continued to be upgraded with the installation of sanitary sewage lines and street paving in the 1920s. Today the area that was Harman is contained in the larger Cherry Creek neighborhood of residential dwellings and the Cherry Creek north shopping area.

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History of Sixth Avenue Community Church

The church grew out of a Sunday school founded in 1887 by Mrs. Robert Lamont and Mrs. James Walker. The Sunday school met in the Harman Schoolhouse at 4th Avenue and Columbine Street. The growing congregation, originally named the Union Congregational Church of Harman, organized in 1888 with Rev. W.L. Gilman as the first pastor. The congregation initially met in the Harman Schoolhouse, but soon moved to a space over the Boot Grocery Store at Clayton Street and 4th Avenue. Unfortunately, a fire destroyed that building and all congregational materials, except the communion service, shortly after they began meeting there. During the ensuing four years, the congregation met in a tent, a building in the 100 block of Detroit Street, and a two-room house at 4th Avenue and Steele Street. The congregation saved enough money to purchase a property at 4th Avenue and Cook Street for their future church site. They completed a new church at 4th Avenue and Cook Street, and after several name changes, the congregation dedicated it as the 4th Avenue Congregational Church in 1892. Though the church location was near the end of the trolley line from downtown Denver, the area surrounding the church was still partly undeveloped prairie (see Figure 1). The congregation arrived via dirt streets and paths, from farms and city residences. This church was a neighborhood fixture from its inception with members, including the children, actively involved. Starting with a gift of 5 cents each, the children of the church invested in various enterprises, such as growing radishes or making ice cream, that astonishingly were successful enough to buy the church bell. (See Figure 2)

Due to a variety of factors, especially the City of Denver's decision to grade Cook Street below the elevation of the church, the congregation determined to move to a different, larger location and sell the Cook Street building. With the previous church building sold, the congregation purchased four lots at Sixth Avenue and Adams Street, contracting with notable local architect William N. Bowman for the design and construction. William E. Sweet, future Governor of Colorado and prominent Congregational lay leader, selected the Sixth Avenue site. By 1922 Sixth Avenue was paved (though Adams Street was still dirt) and the trolley line from downtown Denver (see Figure 3) ran in front of the church. It was a desirable location desirable since it was a growing community as evidenced by some local-oriented businesses emerging, including a grocery store, and an increasing number of modest or middle class residences. Though the neighborhood was platted for several decades as Harman, the sites were only gradually built upon as the population of Denver expanded to the east. Thus, the Sixth Avenue Community Church was designed as and remains a neighborhood-oriented, community church.

Local Harman area families supported the church's construction, financially and through volunteer efforts. The congregation dedicated the stained glass windows to the Boot, Booth, Bradley, Earwaker, Gierhart, and Young families whom were among the significant contributors to the church. One of the stained glass windows has a dedication to Levi and Millie Booth who made notable contributions to the church. The Booth home was commonly known as the Four Mile House (NRIS. 69000042, site no. 5DV.7) and served as a stopping place for travelers, including those traveling by stagecoach, located approximately one mile further upstream (south) on the Cherry Creek from Harman. The large central east-facing stained glass window is dedicated to Rev. W.L. Gilman, who was the first pastor at the original Union Congregational Church of Harmon.

As the new larger church was constructed, the 4th Avenue congregation attended services in a temporary wooden building, underwritten in part by the National Congregational Mission Society, on the Sixth Avenue site (see Figures 3 and 4). The first service in the new building was held in the gymnasium on Sunday October 19, 1924. When completed, the congregation held a dedication ceremony in 1925 for the Sixth Avenue Community (Congregational) Church. The "children's bell" from the 4th Avenue church was hung in the new Sixth Avenue Church tower where it remains operable today.

Over the years, youth and adults of the community have utilized the gymnasium. Additionally, the church building housed a branch library and over time, provided meeting and event space for many other community

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groups and events. A key characteristic of the church has been its availability to non-religious organizations and events. During the 1930s the gymnasium was open days and evenings for neighborhood basketball teams, which provided a welcome outlet especially for young men. Younger members of the community used the stage end of the gymnasium for local plays to entertain the community. Other organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, and the Capitol Opera Company have made the building their home. The community-oriented tradition of welcoming community use of the building continues today as many organizations and classes, including yoga, math camp, Al-anon, Pottery Guild, senior exercises, and ballet classes hold their meetings and events there; a pre-school affiliated with the Denver Waldorf School is also housed in the Sixth Avenue Community Church building.

In the early 1960s a merger of the Congregational Church, the Christian Church, and the Evangelical and Reformed Church occurred. Due to the merger, in January 1964, the congregational name was changed to the Sixth Avenue Community Church (United Church of Christ). The legal name later became Sixth Avenue United Church, though the common name is Sixth Avenue United Church of Christ. From the early times of constant moves and name changes to the present, the congregation has shown determination and flexibility to adapt to changing times and events. Those traits, in turn, have allowed the Sixth Avenue Community Church congregation to persist and to care for their historic building at Sixth and Adams.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Cherry Creek North Neighborhood Association, *Cherry Creek Neighborhood Plan, History of Cherry Creek*, January 31, 2000.

Citizens Advisory Planning Organization, *The Town of Harman and the Harman- Bromwell Elementary School: A Bicentennial Reunion*, Denver, Co., 1976

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Denver Post, "Sixth Ave. Church to Observe Founding in 'Old Times' Fete," Oct 12, 1963, p. 3.

Ihlenburg, Michael, *History of Old Harman Town Hall/ Lawrence N. Greenleaf Masonic Temple: 400 St. Paul Street*, Denver, Co. August 20, 1988.

Johns, Henry, *Harmon and its People: A project of the Harman Neighborhood Reunion Group*. Denver, Co, 1992.

Lamont, Lily, *Story of the Sixth Avenue Community Church*, 1963, unpublished memoir. Sixth Avenue United Church archives.

Lamont, Lily, *Early Harmon and 4th Avenue Congregational Church*,1963. unpublished memoir. Sixth Avenue United Church archives.

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Noel, Thomas and Barbara Norgren, *Denver, The City Beautiful and Its Architects, 1893- 1941*. Denver, Co: Historic Denver, Inc. 1987.

Rocky Mountain News, "Church Plans Dinner for 75th Anniversary," Oct 12, 1963, p.48.

Rounds, Jane. Taped interview History of Sixth Avenue Community Church, October 9, 1999. Sixth Avenue United Church archives.

Sixth Avenue United Church Centennial Year 1887-1997 Directory, Galion, Ohio: United Church Directories, 1997.

William N. Bowman Co., *Specifications for Church to be Erected for the Sixth Avenue Community Church at Sixth Avenue and Adams Street*. March 21, 1924, Sixth Avenue United Church archives.

Sixth Avenue Community Church

Denver County, Colorado

Name of Property _____ County and State _____

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: Denver Public Library; Sixth Avenue United Church

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .47 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

The UTMS were derived by OAHP from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

UTM References (NAD 27)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---|-------|---------|----------|
| 1 | <u>13</u> | <u>504 419</u> | <u>439 7061</u> | 3 | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | 4 | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Plot 7 & The South 65 Ft Of Plot 6 Block 9 Harmans Subdivision, City and County of Denver, Colorado, further described as the NE 1/4 NW 1/4 NW 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 12, Township 4 South, Range 68 West of the 6TH Principal Meridian.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nomination includes property legally and historically associated with Sixth Avenue Community Church at 3250 E. Sixth Avenue, Denver, Colorado.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charlotte A. Redden (for property owner)
organization Sixth Avenue United Church date May 31, 2010
street & number 1115 Detroit Street telephone (303) 399-5728
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80206
e-mail CRedden399@aol.com

Sixth Avenue Community Church
Name of Property

Denver County, Colorado
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Name of Property: | Sixth Avenue Community Church |
| City, County, State: | Denver City and County, Colorado |
| Name of Photographer: | Theodore Trainor |
| Date of Photographs: | May 21, 2010 |
| Location of Original Digital Files: | 1115 Detroit St. Denver, Co. 80206 |
| Number of Photographs: | 17 |

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0001

North side, northeast corner gymnasium, 1924 Cornerstone plaque, camera facing south

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0002

Main entrance, sanctuary north side (left) side, gymnasium east side (right), camera facing southwest

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0003

Bell tower, main entrance viewed from 6th Ave., sanctuary north side (left) side, gymnasium east side (right), camera facing south

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0004

Bell tower north side, ornamental ironwork, terra cotta at main entrance, camera facing south

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0005

Terra cotta, stained glass over main entrance, camera facing south

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0006

Bell tower east side (left), north side (right), ornamental ironwork, camera facing southwest

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0007

East side gymnasium, original windows, mission-style parapet, camera facing northwest

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0008

North side gymnasium, north side sanctuary (left), camera facing south

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_0009

West side gymnasium, mission style parapet, original windows, camera facing east

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_00010

West side (right), north side (left), camera facing southeast

Sixth Avenue Community Church

Denver County, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_00011

West side (left), south side (right), choir area sanctuary (far right), camera facing northeast

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_00012

South side, choir area sanctuary (right), arched and stain glass windows, camera facing northeast

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_00013

East side, sanctuary, arched stained glass windows, mission-style parapet, camera facing southwest

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_00014

Interior gymnasium, stage, original floor and windows, camera facing northwest

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_00015

Balcony, sanctuary, original seating and flooring, arched stained glass windows, camera facing northeast

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_00016

Sanctuary, arched stained glass windows, vaulted ceiling, camera facing southeast

CO_Denver County_Sixth Avenue Community Church_00017

Sanctuary, balcony north side (left), east side (right), original windows, camera facing northeast

HISTORIC IMAGES

- Figure 1 Fourth Avenue Community Church Cook Street, 2 blocks from future location of Sixth Avenue Community Church. Undated photo circa 1890. Camera facing southwest. Note prairie and path instead of street. Sixth Avenue Community Church archives, Denver, Colorado.
- Figure 2 Fourth Ave church circa 1890. No longer extant. Note "Children's Bell" later moved to Sixth Avenue Community Church. Camera facing west. Sixth Avenue Community Church archives, Denver, Colorado.
- Figure 3 Sixth Avenue Community Church construction site 1923-24, camera facing south. Note temporary one story building to left side where congregation met during construction of permanent building. Trolley tracks and paved street gave good access to neighborhood from downtown Denver. Sixth Avenue Community Church archives, Denver, Colorado.
- Figure 4 Sixth Avenue Community Church: Circa 1923. Sixth Avenue foreground paved with trolley tracks and streetlight; Adams Street left side, dirt; building at corner is temporary wooden church. Mission/ Spanish Colonial Revival design elements visible throughout new construction. Sixth Avenue Community Church archives, Denver, Colorado.
- Figure 5 Completed church, circa 1925. Courtesy of Western History/Genealogy Dept., Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado. Call number X-25448 Formerly F16414.

Sixth Avenue Community Church

Denver County, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Englewood Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: 13; 504 419 mE; 4397061 mN
PLSS: 6TH P.M. T4S, R68W, NE NW NW NE
Elevation: 5363 feet



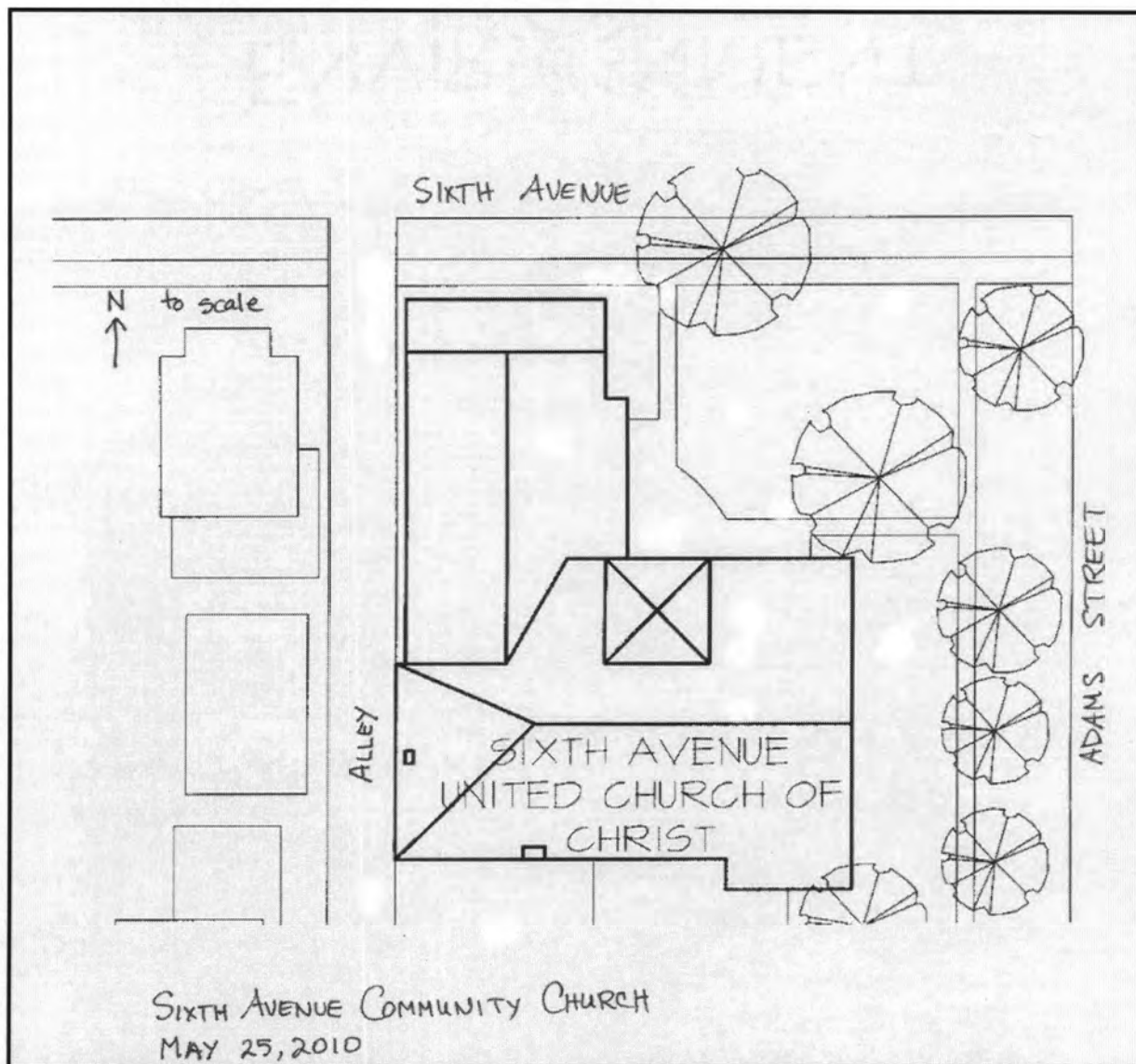
Sixth Avenue Community Church

Denver County, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Sketch Map

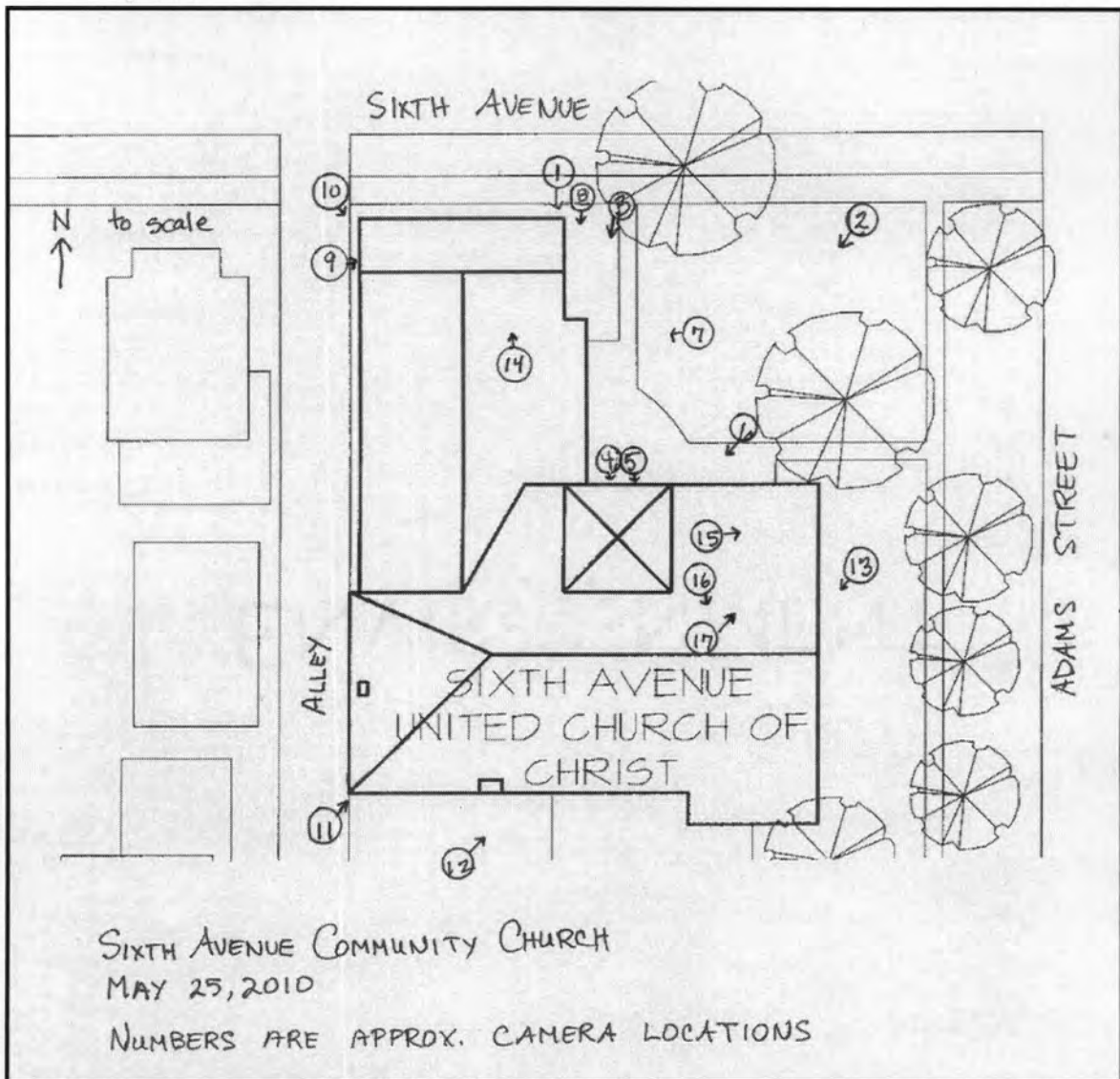


Sketch map drawn by Charlotte Redden. May 25, 2010.

Name of Property

County and State

Photo Locations



Name of Property

County and State



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE HARMAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH often called "The Little Church on the Hill."

Figure 1: Fourth Avenue Community Church Cook Street, 2 blocks from future location of Sixth Avenue Community Church. Undated photo circa 1890. Camera facing southwest. Note prairie and path instead of street.

Name of Property

County and State

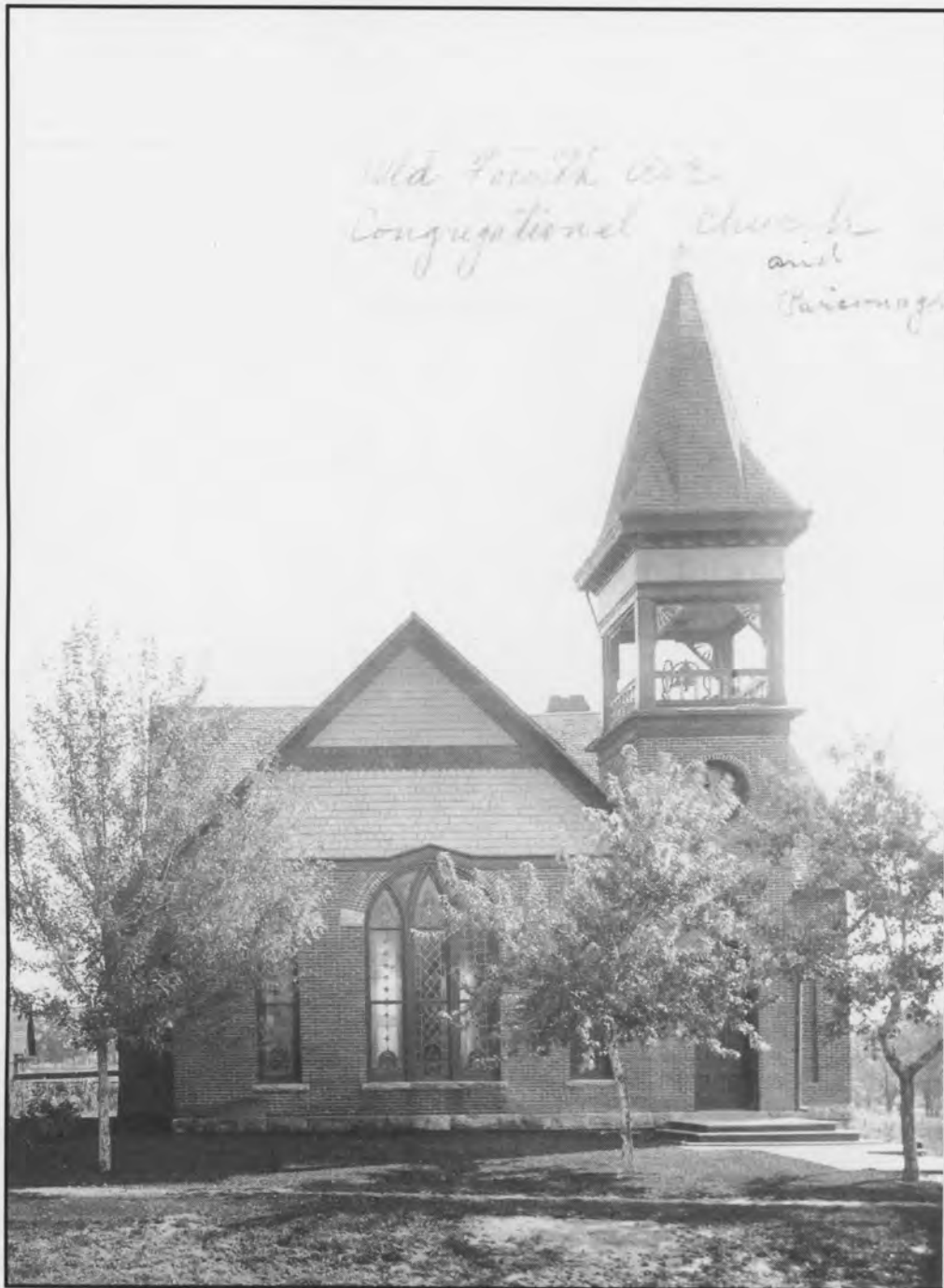


Figure 2: Fourth Avenue Church circa 1890. No longer extant. Note "Children's Bell" later moved to Sixth Avenue Community Church. Camera facing west.

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 3: Sixth Avenue Community Church construction site 1923-24, camera facing south. Note temporary one story building to left side where congregation met during construction of permanent building. Trolley tracks and paved street gave good access to neighborhood from downtown Denver.

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 4: Sixth Avenue Community Church: Circa 1923. Sixth Avenue foreground paved with trolley tracks and street light; Adams Street left side, dirt; building at corner is temporary wooden church. Mission/ Spanish Colonial Revival design elements visible throughout new construction.

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 5: Completed church, circa 1925. Courtesy of Western History/Genealogy Dept., Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado. Call number X-25448 Formerly F16414.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sixth Avenue Community Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Denver

DATE RECEIVED: 11/01/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/13/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/28/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/17/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001037

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12.17.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**SIXTH AVENUE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
1924**

#1 Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County, Colorado
5DV. 10975

05026/100
dsc00443.02e CHD52HG



#2

Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County, CO

5DV.10975

05/25/1991
co_denver_county_sixth_avenue_community_church_0



#3

Sixth Avenue

Community Church

Denver, Denver County,

Colorado

SDV.10975

05/25/18
co-denver. county-sixth avenue community church-



#4 Sixth Avenue Community
Church
Denver, Denver County
Colorado
5DV. 10975

05/25/10
co-denver county sixth avenue community church



#5 Sixth Avenue
Community Church
Denver, Denver County,
Colorado

5DV. 10975

05/25/10
colorado-denver-county-sixth-avenue-community-church-1



#6

Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County, Colorado

5DV.10975

09/25/18
co_denver_county_sixth_avenue_community_church_1



#7

Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County, Colorado

SDV. 10975

#8

Sixth Avenue Community
Church

Denver, Denver County, Colorado
5DV. 10975

05/25/10
co.denver
county
sixth avenue community church



#9 Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County, Colorado

5DV. 10975

65/25/14
co-denver county sixth avenue community church



#10 Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County,
Colorado
5DV. 10975



#11 Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County,
Colorado

SDV. 10975



12 Sixth Avenue Community Church

Denver, Denver County,
Colorado

5DV. 10975



#B Sixth Avenue
Community Church
Denver, Denver
County, Colorado
50V. 10975

05/25/10
co-denver county_sixth avenue community church.f



#14

Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County,
Colorado
5DV. 10975



#15

Sixth Avenue Community Church

Denver, Denver County,

Colorado

SDV. 10975



#16 Sixth Avenue Community Church
Denver, Denver County,

Colorado
5DV 10975



#17

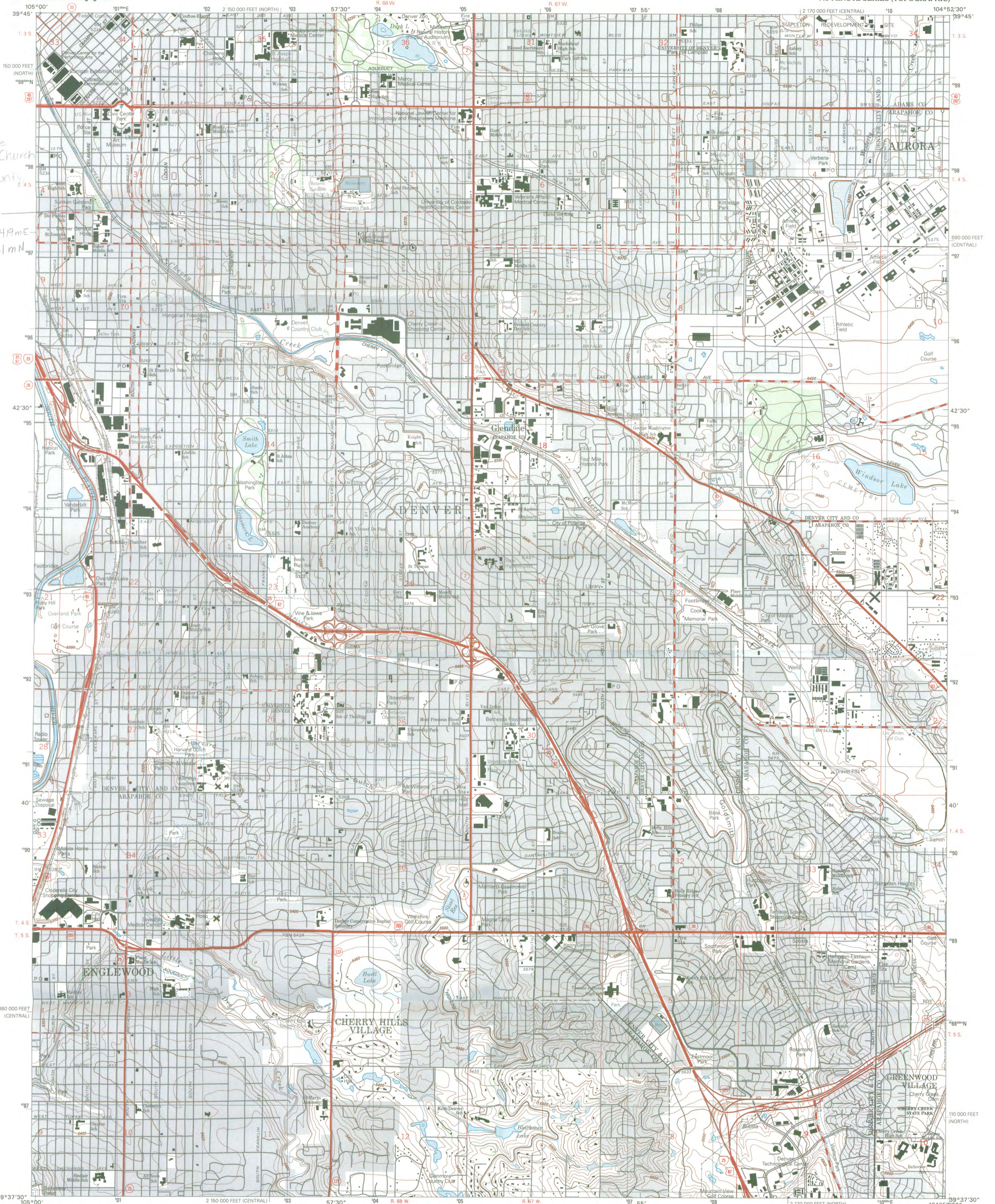
Sixth Avenue Community Church

Denver, Denver County,

Colorado

5DV.10975

85/15/10
colorado
denver
county
sixth
avenue
community
church



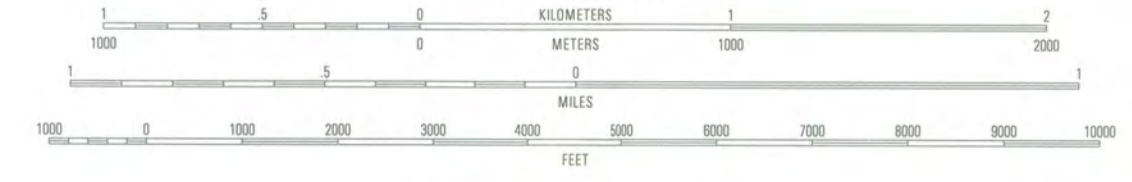
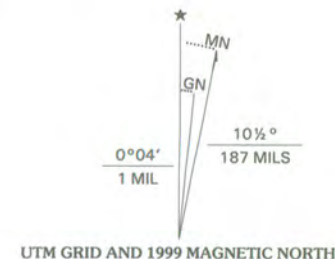
Sixth Avenue
Community Church
Denver County, Colorado
UTMs:
Zone 13; 504 49 mE
439 7061 mN

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1964. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1988 and other sources. Photosinspected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLS and survey control current as of 1965. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1999.

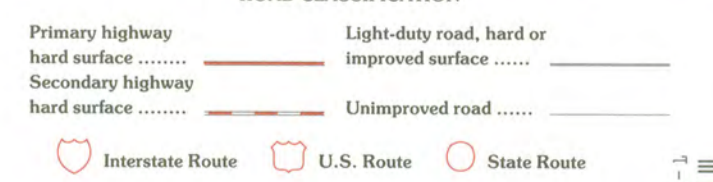
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 13 10 000-foot ticks; Colorado Coordinate System of 1927 (central and north zones).

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map. Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 Arvada |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 Commerce City |
| 7 | 8 | 8 | 3 Montebello |
| | | | 4 Fort Logan |
| | | | 5 Fitzsimmons |
| | | | 6 Lindsay |
| | | | 7 Highlands Ranch |
| | | | 8 Parker |

ENGLEWOOD, CO

1997

NIMA 5063 III NW-SERIES V877





OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION
1560 Broadway, Ste. 400 Denver CO 80202

**COLORADO CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REVIEW REPORT FORM**

Property Name: Sixth Avenue Community Church

Address: 3250 E. 6th Avenue

Certified Local Government: Denver, Colorado

Date of public meeting at which nomination was reviewed: August 17, 2010

Eligibility Criteria: (Check applicable boxes)

- Criterion A
- Criterion C
- Criterion B
- Criterion D

Please check the boxes below appropriate to the nomination review:

Commission/Board

- The commission/board recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
- The commission/board recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
- The commission/board chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Chief Elected Official

- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
- The chief elected official chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Attach an additional sheet to make any further comments.

Certify this report with both signatures below

CLG Commission/Board Chair or Representative

Print name: DENNIS HUMPHRIES

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

8/17/10
(Date)

Chief Elected Official or Designee

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

(Date)



HISTORY  Colorado



October 25, 2010

Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye "T" Street, N.W. 8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005-5905

Re: National Register nomination for the Sixth Avenue Community Church, Denver County, Colorado
(5DV.10975)

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Sixth Avenue Community Church, Denver County, Colorado (5DV.10975).

The State Review Board reviewed the nomination at its meeting on October 1, 2010. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the property met the criteria for listing in the National Register. Additionally, the Federal Historic Preservation Officer recommended it that it met the criteria for listing.

We look forward to the formal listing of this property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Heather Peterson
National & State Register Historian
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Colorado Historical Society
(303) 866-4684
(303) 866-2041 (fax)
heather.peterson@chs.state.co.us

Enclosures

Registration forms
USGS map
Photographs
CD
Letter of Support from Denver Landmarks Commission

THE COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA 1560 BROADWAY SUITE 400 DENVER COLORADO 80202 www.historycolorado.org